

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a filling material, comprising the steps of:

obtaining down;

washing the down in accordance with a predetermined washing process to produce prepared down;

~~obtaining~~ obtaining Lyocell fiber;

blending the prepared down with the obtained Lyocell fiber in accordance with a predetermined blending process to produce the filling material.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the blending step is carried out by blending the prepared down 70% by weight with 30% by weight Lyocell fiber.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the washing step is carried out by the sub-steps of:

(a) washing the down with hot soapy water;

(b) rinsing the down with hot water;

(c) rinsing the down with cold water;

(d) drying the rinsed down; and

(e) dedusting and cooling the dried down.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the drying sub-step is carried out by drying 40 pounds of washed down for substantially 20 minutes at a temperature of substantially 220 degrees Fahrenheit

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the dedusting and cooling sub-step further includes injecting ozone into the down.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the dedusting and cooling sub-step is carried out utilizing a screened centrifuge.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein each of the washing and two rinsing sub-steps further includes applying the down to a centrifuge cycle.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the blending step is carried out by the sub-steps of:

- (a) washing the down with hot soapy water;
- (b) rinsing the down with hot water;
- (c) adding the Lyocell fiber to the washed and rinsed down to produce a mixture;
- (d) rinsing the mixture with cold water;
- (e) drying the rinsed mixture; and
- (f) dedusting and cooling the dried mixture.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the rinsing the mixture sub-step includes applying the rinsed mixture to a centrifuge cycle, and repeating the rinsing and centrifuge cycles multiple times.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the adding sub-step is carried out by adding 30% by weight Lyocell fiber to the washed and rinsed down.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the drying sub-step is carried out by drying substantially 40 pounds of the rinsed mixture for substantially 20 minutes at a temperature of substantially 200 degrees Fahrenheit.
12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the dedusting and cooling sub-step includes injecting of ozone into the dried mixture.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the blending step is carried out by a dry process.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of filling a pillow with the produced filling material.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of filling a comforter with the produced filling material.
16. (Original) A filling material, comprising:
down; and
Lyocell fiber blended with the down.
17. (Original) The filling material of claim 16, wherein the filling material includes 70% by weight of the down and 30% by weight of the Lyocell fiber.
18. (Original) The filling material of claim 16, wherein the down includes a minimum of 75% new down cluster.

19. (Original) A pillow, comprising:
a blend of down and Lyocell fiber; and
a pillow filled with the blend of down and Lyocell fiber.
20. (Original) A comforter, comprising:
a blend of down and Lyocell fiber; and
a comforter filled with the blend of down and Lyocell fiber.
21. (New) A method of manufacturing a filling material, comprising the steps of:
obtaining down;
obtaining Lyocell fiber;
blending the obtained down with the obtained Lyocell fiber to produce the filling material.
22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising filling a pillow with the produced filling material.
23. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising filling a comforter with the produced filling material.
24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the blending step is carried out by blending the obtained down with the obtained Lyocell fiber using a wet blending process to produce the filling material.